

Remarks

The Examiner objected to informalities in claim 19. Claim 19 has been amended, according to the Examiner's suggestion.

The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over *Locati* in view of *Allison*. *Allison* is owned by Andrew Corporation, as is the present application. The Examiner admits that *Locati* does not include interleaved concentric threads and supplies *Allison* therefore. The interleaved concentric threads on the inner conductor 20, identified by the Examiner in *Allison*, are tapered, self tapping threads adapted to couple with the smooth inner wall of a hollow center conductor of the coaxial cable (col 4, Ln 51 to col 6, Ln 11). *Allison* also has a connector body 30 and rear clamp nut (clamping member 51) similar to the configuration of the present invention – having conventional complementary single machine threads on each component.

The Examiner suggests that one skilled in the art would be motivated to combine *Locati* with the threaded portion disclosed by *Allison* in place of the conventional threading between the connector body and the rear clamp nut “in order to reduce assembling time”. However, *Allison* only applies interleaved concentric threads in a tapered, self tapping configuration to self tap into the smooth inner wall of a soft copper inner conductor, not the interconnection between a connector body and rear clamp nut. *Allison* does not itself incorporate the adaptation suggested by the Examiner in its own connector body 30 to rear clamp nut (clamping member 51) connection. One skilled in the art will recognize that the tapered self tapping threads disclosed by *Allison* are not suitable for complementary threading between components of similar metallic hardness such as the interconnection between a connector body and a rear clamp nut according to the invention. If the proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified

unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In Re Gordon* 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion or incentive supporting the combination. *ACS Hospital Systems, Inc. v. Montefiore Hospital* 732 F.2d 1572, 1577 (Fed.Cir. 1984). Absent a showing in the prior art the Examiner has impermissibly used 'hindsight' occasioned by the applicant's teaching to hunt through the prior art for the claimed elements and combined them as claimed. *In re Zurko* 111 F.3d 887 (Fed.Cir.1997).

Also, because *Allison* incorporates conventional complementary single threading between the connector body 30 and rear clamp nut, and applies the "interleaved concentric" threads identified by the Examiner only to the self taping inner contact, the cited reference itself teaches away from the present invention. Teaching away is a strong indicator of non-obviousness. *In Re Grasselli* 218 USPQ 769, 779 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

As each and every element of the claimed invention fails to be disclosed, taught or suggested in the cited references, rejection of claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper.

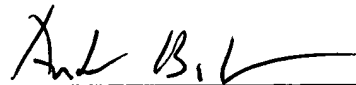
Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-18.

The Examiner objected to claims 21-26 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, and indicated that these claims would be allowable if placed into independent form. As described in detail herein above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of the base independent claim, 19, is improper. Therefore, these dependent claims thereof should also be allowable.

The Examiner indicated that the drawings as originally filed were accepted. Applicant notes that the drawings as filed include informal hand drawn markings for element notations and or figure number labels. Replacement formal figures without hand drawn markings are attached. No new matter has been added.

Having obviated each of the Examiners rejections, applicant respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued. Should the Examiner be inclined to issue an Official Action other than the notice of allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner first contact Applicant by telephone at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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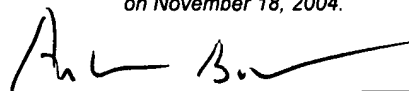
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/Encl: Replacement Formal Figures (7 sheets)

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on November 18, 2004.*



Andrew D. Babcock